MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP AND THE
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE

Tuesday, January 18, 2005 - 1:30 p.m.
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Cholla Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Tami Ryall, Gilbert, Chair, Regional Bicycle   *John Lynch, Maricopa County
Task Force and Acting Chair of the Pedestrian   Mitch Foy, Mesa
Working Group   Karen Flores, Peoria
Bruce Meyers, ADOA Gen. Services   Katherine Coles, Phoenix
Michael Eagan, ASLA, Arizona Chapter   Briiana Leon, Phoenix
Anna Roedler, Avondale   Randi Alcott, RPTA
*Michael Normand, Chandler   Dawn Coomer, Scottsdale
*Michael Ohland, Chandler   Reed Kempton, Scottsdale
Bill Lazenby, Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists   *Lee Lambert, Surprise
Steve Hancock, Glendale   *Eric Iwersen, Tempe
Janeen Gaskins, Goodyear
Michael Cartsonis, Litchfield Park

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Maureen DeCindis, MAG   Mike Washkowiak, Kimley-Horn
Leslie Dornfeld, HDR   Darren Farar, Goodyear
Mike Sanders, ADOT   Kelly LaRosa, Peoria
Jason Scott, HDR   Anton Sontin, Sherman Group, Inc.
Tom Fitzgerald, Logan Simpson Design
Amy MacAulay, citizen

1. Call to Order

   Acting Chairman Briiana Leon called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the December 14, 2004 Meeting Minutes of the Pedestrian Working Group and the Regional Bicycle Task Force.

   Bill Lazenby moved to approve and Steve Hancock seconded the move to approve the meeting minutes of the Bicycle Task Force and Pedestrian Working Group for December 14, 2004. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the Bicycle Task Force and the Pedestrian Working Group on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Members of the public were requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes was provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Bicycle Task Force and the Pedestrian Working Group requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on action agenda items were given an opportunity at the time the item was heard.

Amy Macaulay noted that audience members can speak on agenda items when the agenda item is heard.

4. Presentation by HDR Engineering on the draft final MAG Pedestrian Design Guidelines

HDR Engineering presented the draft final MAG Pedestrian Design Guidelines. This is the last opportunity for members of the committee to give comments before the guidelines are completed at the end of January. Leslie Dornfeld initiated the presentation with an overview of the steps taken so far. The whole scope has been accomplished including the literature review, the audits, a revised and reformatted Design Guidelines that have incorporated new information based on the white papers.

At the transit audit, the group worked with rail drawings and walked the proposed site for the Central and Thomas and Central and Osborn rail station locations. Comments from the audit group included that mid-block lighting would make the area safer; station wayfinding is needed; width of the two foot warning strip is a concern; tactile changes would signal to visually impaired persons that the on-ramp slants upward; concerns about encroachments on the current sidewalk and lack of overflow area for pedestrians waiting to cross the street to get to the platform; and concerns that it might be too easy to cross the tracks and jump onto the platform mid-block.

Comments from the Pedestrian Working Group on the working draft included: concern about the legal definitions and implications of the word "safe". HDR suggested that MAG legal counsel consider this issue. Maybe MAG should put a disclaimer in the front of the Guidelines that will signify that all designs are recommendations only and the use of the word "safe" within this document is not a guarantee of safety. Steve Hancock said that the term "safer" is widely accepted instead of "safe". Leslie Dornfeld responded to Mitch Foy's suggestion to change the word all together, that the word "safe" is the least common denominator throughout the whole document.

Minimum design standards have identified that the basics include a sidewalk, signed or signalized crossing, and be separated from traffic. Dawn Coomer asked if the guidelines would suggest a minimum width. Leslie Dornfeld responded that this is still under consideration. Mitch Foy recalled that six feet was sited in the document. Dawn Coomer suggested that the distinction should be made between the different rural, suburban and urban areas. Bruce Meyer suggested that maybe a small sidewalk may give a false sense of security. Reed Kempton noted that the MAG standards indicated a five foot minimum sidewalk. Wider sidewalks may help with the lateral separation and low water use according to Bruce Meyer.

Leslie Dornfeld explained that the guidelines will make recommendations that correlate to land use, density, latent demand, level of traffic, and road side conditions roadside conditions and latent demand descriptions are being re-written to include a verbal discussion to include a subjective application.

Universal design will be highlighted and integrated into the guidelines. Leslie Dornfeld then reviewed the Table of Contents.

Jason Scott, HDR Engineering, presented information on the web page. He demonstrated how the web page would work using the Specs Guide. Michael Eagan asked if the pages can be linked to the index. Steve Hancock asked if the downloads would be in pdf format.

5. MAG Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Committee members were asked to identify projects that could be submitted for funding under the MAG Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for 2006.

Suggestions from the committee were that MAG consider sponsoring a region-wide safe route to school education program similar to Tucson and sponsor a Healthy Communities conference. Karen Flores suggested an education campaign for motorists on bike/ped safety issues.

6. Review the Scope of Work for the Request For Proposal for Updating the MAG Bike Plan

Committee members were asked for final comments on the Scope of Work for the Request for Proposal to update the MAG Regional Bikeways Plan.

Reed Kempton had many suggestions. It was agreed that MAG staff would meet separately with Reed Kempton proceeded to identify concerns and incorporate changes.

Mitch Foy drew a grid system of arterial streets on the white board. In the background of the arterial grid is a mid-section collector grid system. Many bike riders choose to ride mid-section collector streets. There is a need to make the mid-section collector streets into a system. Mitch Foy suggested that the Regional Bike Plan analyze the following three sections:

       1. Crossing of arterials at canals
       2. Crossing of arterials at mid-section streets
       3. Crossing of mid-section streets at canals

The potential is enormous because the mid-section collectors also allow passage through developments as well as neighborhoods. Michael Cartsonis supported Mitch Foy's ideas because this includes the needs within neighborhoods. Crossing arterials becomes an obstacle that separates communities. Connecting the mid-section streets will complete the network to create viable neighborhoods. Convenient commercial facilities in the neighborhood would also encourage adults to bike and walk.

Kelly LaRosa reminded the committee that the need for bicycle facilities on arterials should not be diminished.

Michael Eagan agreed that all possible corridors should be considered including transmission lines, rail corridors and new freeway system. Also, consideration should be given to making the intermodal sections work. Mitch Foy agreed that all corridors should be incorporated.

7. MAG Regional Bikeways Map

Committee members were asked to review the final draft of the bike map before it is sent to the printer at the end of January.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be February 15, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. in the Cholla Room.